

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /113 W

----- 105661

R 310921Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8541

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3121

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: MARAIS STEYN RESIGNS TOP UP POST

1. FOLLOWING MEETING OF UNITED PARTY'S (UP) CENTRAL HEAD COMMITTEE AND PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS IN JOHANNESBURG AUGUST 30, MARAIS STEYN, UP MP FOR YEOVILLE, ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION AS UP'S CHIEF OF INFORMATION. STEYN SAID HE DECIDED TO GIVE UP HIS POSITION IN LEADERSHIP OF PARTY BECAUSE "...IT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO ME THAT THERE ARE UNBRIDGEABLE PERSONALITY PROBLEMS BETWEEN ME AND MR. HARRY SCHWARZ AND THAT DIFFICULTIES HAVE ALSO ARISEN FOR ME IN CONNECTION WITH IMPORTANT MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE...." STEYN ALSO SAID, "NOW THAT I NO LONGER FILL ANY HIGH POSITION IN THE UP I SHALL BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING MY PERSONAL FUTURE IN SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS."

2. COMMENT: UP MEETING HAD BEEN CONVENED TO CONSIDER ISSUE OF CONTROVERSIAL LETTER FROM CENTRAL HEAD COMMITTEE TO SUNDAY EXPRESS WHICH EXPRESSED ITS "UNANIMOUS APPRECIATION" FOR SUPPORT THE NEWS-
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PAPER HAD GIVEN UP'S OLD GUARD AND ITS OPPOSITION TO

HARRY SCHWARZ AND TRANSVAAL YOUNG TURKS. APPARENTLY
WHATEVER DECISION WAS REACHED AT MEETING WAS FAVORABLE
TO SCHWARZ AND INIMICAL TO STEYN. THIS COULD ONLY
BE VIEWED BY STEYN AS CROWNING BLOW TO HIS PRESTIGE
IN PARTY WHICH BEGAN TO SLIDE WHEN SCHWARZ REPLACED
HIM LAST YEAR AS TRANSVAAL LEADER OF UP. STEYN, WHO
WELL KNOWN TO EMBOFFS, HAS MADE LITTLE EFFORT TO HIDE
HIS BITTERNESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT. HE HAS REFUSED TO
COMMENT ON PRESS SPECULATION THAT HE MIGHT CROSS AISLE
AND JOIN NP. IT POSSIBLE PRIME MINISTER VORSTER COULD
EVEN TRY TO ENTICE HIM WITH OFFER OF CABINET POST.
NEVERTHELESS, IT QUESTIONABLE WHETHER DEPTH OF STEYN'S
BITTERNESS AND POSSIBLE BLANDISHMENTS FROM NATIONALISTS
WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO IMPELL HIM TO LEAVE PARTY HE HAS
SERVED FOR OVER 30 YEARS AND TO BREAK HIS STRONG FRIEND-
SHIP WITH PARTY LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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